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The Study of Animal Life. By J. ARTHUR THOMSON, M.A., F.R.S.E. New York : Charles Scribner's Sons. 12 mo. ; pp. 375.

This is a manual designed for teachers and students in University Extension Courses. It consists of a series of sketches, concerning the every day life of animals, their internal activities, their forms and structure, and finally, the theory of animal life, all carefully arranged so as to make a connected account. It is addressed to those who have little time or opportunity for the systematic study of zoology, but who have an interest in the life and habits of animals, and desire to appreciate these more thoroughly. Its chief object is, as stated by the author, "to give the student some impulse to joyousness of observation, and freedom of judgment, rather than to satisfy that thirst for knowledge which leads many to intellectual insobriety."

The plan of the work has been carried out in an admirable manner. It is written in a clear simple style ; and at the same time, the view taken is from a thoroughly scientific standpoint ; and what is especially satisfactory, the later results of science are embodied in it. Popular works are apt to lag a long way behind the van of science, but this one is both popular and abreast of modern thought.

The breadth of the scope of the work, and the narrow limits of its space have necessitated a brief discussion of each of the topics treated ; but the book possesses all the merits of a vigorous and suggestive sketch. The reader is sure to feel a desire to read farther. How this desire may be gratified the author points out in an excellent appendix entitled, "Some of the Text Books on Animal Life."

Although this book is written especially for those engaged in University Extension work, its usefulness is not confined to this field ; both teachers and students in schools and college classes will find it an exceedingly valuable complement to the ordinary text-book of zoology.

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American Literature, a Text Book for the Use of Schools and Colleges. By JULIAN HAWTHORNE and LEONARD LEMMON. Boston : D. C. Heath & Co. 1892.

This book, the critical parts of which are written mainly by one of America's shrewdest judges of what is delicate and true, especially in imaginative writing, is not at all like the average book of its class. Text-books for the use of schools are, as a rule, apt to be tedious, tasteless, and especially colorless. They are apt to be so cautious and conservative in their presentation of opinion and even of fact as to lose individuality, flavor and force. But Julian Hawthorne's book on *American Literature* is permeated by the author's thought and feeling and is alive on every

page, and throbbing with genuine interest in the subject presented. The author is himself a literary artist, the son of our most finished writer of prose fiction. He is also a refined critic, a book reviewer by profession, an indefatigable reader of the world's best books. The manual before us is a clear and succinct presentation of the history of American literature, and a sort of vivid picture gallery portraying the chief writers whom the country has thus far produced. The whole is comprised in about three hundred pages, beautifully printed and adorned by many cuts. The narrative portions of the book are lucid and lively, the critical parts penetrating and bold, sometimes destructive but never malignant, and though often severe never unkind, though perhaps not always just never dangerously misleading. In arraying his literary pictures for a new and original exposition for the benefit of the student, Mr. Hawthorne has rearranged the order of the portraits and he shows them in new lights, bringing out unexpected features and relative differences never so well exhibited before. He has taken down some statues from the higher pedestals on which we have been accustomed to see them, and has elevated others, following his independent judgment and taste. For example, Holmes and Whittier are awarded only medium rank among our poets, while Coates Kinney is deservedly recognized as one entitled to rank among the best of our singers. Emerson is placed at the top of our literature in both philosophy and poetry, and of Walt Whitman it is said, "His egotism is at least commensurate with his ignorance." The characterization of the genius and literary style of such leading writers as Irving, Bryant, Longfellow, Lowell, Poe, Motley and Bancroft seems to us exceedingly happy and discriminating. It is evident that the author has conscientiously studied the works of these writers and has, in an optimistic spirit, delineated them as he sees them, without fear and without favor. An entire chapter is devoted to the great Benjamin Franklin; and, with natural pride, an admiring son bestows a full chapter upon his illustrious father, Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Taken all in all, this vigorous little book may be freely commended to teachers, and students, and to the general reader. It cannot be read with indifference. It must provoke attention and comment. Whoever examines it will be aroused, both in his intellect and in his affections, and will be set to thinking comparing and judging for himself. The authors judiciously say in an introductory page addressed to teachers, "This manual is intended to be, not an end in itself, but a means to an end. It is not to be regarded as a substitute for independent literary study. It is a method and a guide; did it attempt to be more, it would attempt too much. At the present day it is hardly necessary to remind teachers of this."

W. H. Venable.

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